

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-05 CU-04 OS-03 IGA-02 INR-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 /084 W

----- 099524

R 181030 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7421

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 1186

AIDAC

BEIRUT FOR AAO

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID CY LE

SUBJECT: AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 85002; B) NICOSIA 79

SUMMARY: WE HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF GOC FUNDING PORTION OF AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH CONCERNED GOC OFFICIALS. REACTIONS WERE MIXED. ALL EMPHASIZED PROCEDURAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED; TWO OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT THEY WOULD PREFER REDUCED PROGRAM TO GOC PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, ALL AGREED ON VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF PROGRAM, EXPRESSED HOPE IT WOULD REMAIN INTACT, AND SAID GOC WOULD GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO PARTICIPATION IF EMBASSY SUBMITTED FORMAL PROPOSAL. SHALL WE DO SO? END SUMMARY

1. ECON OFF HAS DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF GOC FUNDING PORTION OF AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH GOC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMAN, HEAD OF FONOFF CULTURAL SECTION AND CONCERNED PLANNING BUREAU OFFICER. ALL NOTED THAT GOC NOW PAYS ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES AND PARTIAL SALARY FOR GOC EMPLOYEES WHO WIN
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SCHOLARSHIPS BUT THAT PRIVATE GRANTEES, INCLUDING ALL
TURKISH CYPRIOTS, PAY THEIR WON WAY.

2. IDEA OF JOINT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HELD LITTLE
IMMEDIATE APPEAL TO OFFICIALS. TWO OFFICIALS,
SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SAID THEY WOULD PREFER FEWER
SCHOLARSHIPS, FULLY FINANCED BY AID, TO THE MAINTENANCE OF
CURRENT LEVELS BY MEANS OF GOC PARTICIPATION. THEY BASED
THEIR CONCERN ON THE PRECEDENT GOC PARTICIPATION MIGHT SET
FOR OTHER BILATERAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS, ON
WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS
OF THE NEED FOR THE GOC TO PICK UP PART OF WHAT HAS ALWAYS
BEEN THE U. S. TAB AND, AND THE FACT THAT GOC NOW HAS ITS OWN
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WHICH NEEDS FINANCING. ON OTHER HAND,
FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT ANY FORMAL PROPOSAL WE
SUBMITTED. ALL THREE EXPRESSED THEIR FEARS THAT EAST EUROPEAN
SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD FILL ANY GAP RESULTING FROM REDUCTION
IN AUB SCHOLARSHIPS, AND SAID GOC IS UNDER CONSTANT
PRESSURE FROM COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT MORE
SCHOLARSHIP AID.

3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THESE DISCUSSIONS INDICATED THAT
GOC MIGHT AGREE TO SOME FORMULA BY WHICH IT WOULD
CONTRIBUTE TO SCHOLARSHIPS OF GOC EMPLOYEES, BUT THAT
IT WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS
(READ TURKS). WE MIGHT PURSUE THE POSSIBILITY OF GOC
CONTRIBUTION TO CIVIL SERVANT SCHOLARSHIPS WITH SUGGESTION
THAT GOC FINANCE FULLY TWO OF THE AUB SCHOLARSHIPS
ANNUALLY, ONE IN EDUCATION AND ONE IN AGRICULTURE. BOTH
OF THESE SLOTS ALREADY GO TO GOC EMPLOYEES. IN OUR
BOOKS WE WOULD REGARD SUM MADE AVAILABLE AS A
PROPORTIONATE CONTRIBUTION TO ENTIRE PROGRAM. THUS,
FROM OUR STANDPOINT, GOC WOULD IN EFFECT BE PARTICIPATING
IN SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE GRANTEES. HOWEVER, FROM GOC
STANDPOINT, CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE FOR EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT
OF CIVIL SERVANT SCHOLARSHIPS.

4. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO SUGGEST THAT THE
GOC PAYMENT BE CHANNEDLED TO A. I. D. THROUGH THE CYPRUS
FULBRIGHT COMMISSION, WHICH DOES IN FACT PROVIDE
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE AID/ AUB PROGRAM. GOC
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ALREADY CONTRIBUTES ABOUT \$5,000 ANNUALLY TO THE COMMISSION
AND MIGHT CONSIDER AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION EARMARKED FOR
THE AUB PROGRAM . THIS MIGHT GET AROUND THE PUBLIC/ PRIVATE
SCHOLARSHIP PROBLEM AND MIGHT OFFER A VIABLE SOLUTION.

5. IT EVIDENT THAT CHANCES OF MEANINGFUL GOC PARTICIPATION
(\$10,000-\$15,000 ANNUALLY) ARE NOT GREAT. HOWEVER, THE

POSSIBILITIES OUTLINED ABOVE SEEM SUFFICIENTLY VIABLE TO
PURSUE. NEST STEP WOULD BE DIPLOMATIC NOTE OUTLINING THE
FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM AS NOW FUNDED AND STATING THE KIND OF
PARTICIPATION WE SEEK.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
POPPER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NICOSI01186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730547/aaaajpw.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 85002, 73 NICOSIA 79
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980219
Subject: AUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
TAGS: EAID, CY, LE
To: AID
BEIRUT
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005